THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The passport issuance process in all Passport Offices in India is fully computerised. Several measures that have been taken to make the system more foolproof include issuance of machine-readable passports, computerisation of work process and setting up a central database for the purpose of checking and verification.

(b) to (d) Not applicable.

Bypass on NH-3

469. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gwalior city by-pass on National Highway No. 3 is proposed to be built;

(b) if so, by when construction work is likely to be undertaken; and

(c) the target fixed for completion of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The construction work is likely to be undertaken by April, 2006 and completed within a period of 24 months.

Clean-up drive by NHAI

470. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: '

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India has launched a cleanup drive to strengthen internal processes and equip itself better to handle subsequent phases of prestigious National Highways Development Project;

(b) if so, whether seven contracts have been terminated due to poor performance and fraudulent practices by both Indian and foreign companies;

(c) if so, whether standardized documents performance guarantees, penalty clauses and third party audit's are some measures taken to ensure quality work; and